

# THE ART OF SATHFINDER KINGMAKER





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hat is the first step in art development for an ordinary game? It starts with a search for an image, a concept, an atmosphere. But how does one begin art development for a game based on a world-famous roleplaying system that has inspired dozens of books, including comic books, with hundreds of illustrations? This was the key question to answer for the artistic team at Owlcat Games when we started developing Pathfinder: Kingmaker. The end result of our work is collected in the very book you hold in your hands.

Creating the virtual Stolen Lands was quite an adventure, perhaps even an journey following in the footsteps of the main characters of the game. Together, we explored the outskirts of Golarion, visiting its wild corners, mysterious ruins, and distant settlements as we met new characters and incredible monsters. It was a rare opportunity to sink into a universe as carefully designed and elaborate as Pathfinder. We are happy we had this opportunity.

Pathfinder: Kingmaker is the beloved child of the whole studio, of every team member. Absolutely everybody, from the animators to the sound designers, invested 100% of their effort into this game. As these words are written, the team is preparing for release. What destiny awaits Pathfinder: Kingmaker? Only time will tell. However, it is safe to say that the game has become a powerful source of inspiration for everyone who was fortunate enough to work on it. We hope the works of our artists will inspire you to brave the unknown.

Welcome to the Stolen Lands.

VIKTOR SURKOV, OWLCAT GAMES ART DIRECTOR





hen we started working on Pathfinder: Kingmaker, the studio artists had a difficult task. They had to visualize a whole region of Golarion, the primary planet of the Pathfinder universe. Detailed descriptions of the world itself as well as the River Kingdoms were at their disposal.

Despite its fantastic nature, Golarion is full of references to real-world countries, cultures, and people. The primary challenge here was to combine the magical nature of the universe with visually realistic imagery for the video game. The Stolen Lands, located in the northeastern section of the River Kingdoms, are situated on the continent of Avistan in the northern hemisphere of Golarion. The climatic zone there is similar to that of eastern Europe. This enabled us to create an environment identical to the nature and culture of a midlatitude region. At the same time, we wanted to take into account that wild trolls, kobolds, magical fairies, and massive, deadly predators like wyverns and manticores shared the Stolen Lands with people and other civilized creatures. Beyond that, this ancient land has lived for many centuries — it bears the traces of ancient, extinct cultures, which the player may come across. For example, there are ruins of ancient dwarven fortifications, as well as sanctuaries of forgotten gods.

Other states neighbor the Stolen Lands, as well. They influence certain game events. The player will visit the northern country of Brevoy, whose political leaders are fighting for influence in the south. Another River Kingdom is called Pitax, and its subjects begin bothering the main character almost from the start of the game. Additionally, the player is forced to face the barbarians of Numeria, a militant tribal culture. Thus, within one game, the artists had to develop visual imagery that was distinct at a fundamental level, ranging from the sophisticated court schemers of Brevoy to the wild, berserk warriors of the north.

The player will have numerous allies and opponents, and these game characters deserve an individual reference. Only a few of them can be considered archetypal — like a real human being, a single character in Pathfinder: Kingmaker can combine opposing personality traits or include varying facets of life. Of course, revealing all the nuances and contradictions of an individual through their portrait is a task beyond our power. However, minor symbolic elements (such as costume details, color selection, and pieces of equipment) allowed the artists to make significant contributions to the creation of the game's characters.

The imagery in Pathfinder: Kingmaker is primarily meant to emphasize the realism of the events happening to the player—even given the fact that everything is happening in Golarion, where magic and monsters are quite common and ordinary. It is an easy world to imagine because it is based on something the player finds familiar, a phenomenon the artists at Owlcat Games used to create a virtual universe whose brave inhabitants are eager to embark on an adventure.



## HEROES & MONSTERS

ur characters are the flesh and blood of Pathfinder: Kingmaker. They are the core of the game, the handiwork of many people, including our artists. This chapter collects portraits of the main character and their companions along with images representing the character classes and the monsters inhabiting the Stolen Lands.





Players create their character from scratch. They can select their gender, race, appearance, and class, as well as other traits. With such diversity, a couple of sample portraits for the main character can hardly suffice. Our artists' main goal was to create art that would sink into players' hearts and fit multiple models and archetypes. This artbook contains five different portraits for the main character, including the one that was created in accordance with suggestions by Pathfinder: Kingmaker's supporters on Kickstarter.









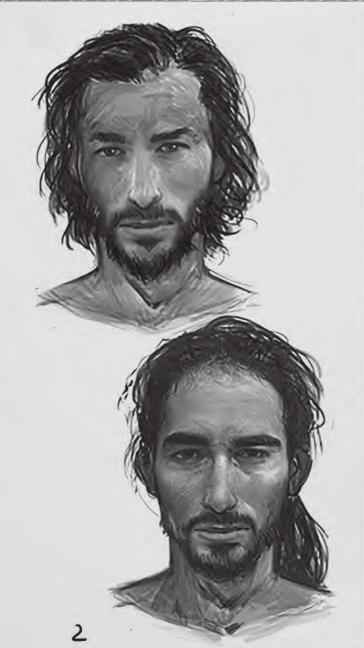










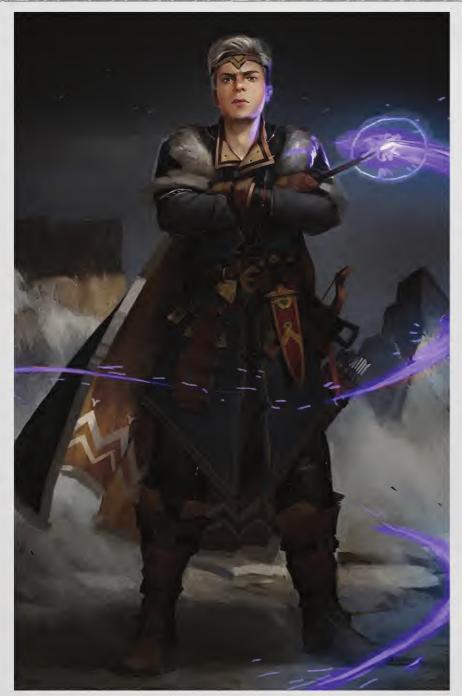




Face Skotch





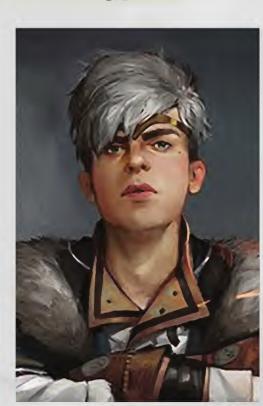






















### (30MPHNIONS

From the very start, we decided that the player wouldn't be alone during their adventures. The main character is accompanied by partners — vastly different characters who join in the conquest of the Stolen Lands for one reason or another. Each of them has their own story that progresses throughout Pathfinder: Kingmaker with the player's direct involvement.

### **J**UBILOST

A famous traveler, a scientist, the author of numerous books, articles, and pamphlets, as well as a skilled alchemist and an expert in other planes... You could go on forever listing the titles and skills of Jubilost Narthropple. The player finds this educated gnome and his servants in a very delicate situation — while they try to pull their cart from a river, they also have to fight off a mob of kobolds. Jubilost is not just another companion — he is one of the characters from the original Kingmaker adventure path. We remade his portrait several times, searching for an image that would suit his arrogant and inquisitive character. His glasses became one of his distinguishing features — in a world where poor eyesight can be corrected with magic, Jubilost nevertheless prefers the "traditional" method. In his mind, this creates a bond between him and his readers, who may not be able to afford expensive magical treatments.











### YINZI

He to the beginning of the game, players meet Linzi, a vigorous and resilient halfling bard who wants to write a book about a "True Hero." A dropout of Pitax's Academy of Grand Arts (reason: writing a frivolous limerick about the reigning king), this young lady won't let hardships break her spirit or her flesh. She strikes out on a journey to the Stolen Lands. It's hard to overestimate her role, as the bard acts as a narrator, describing all of the main character's adventures in her book. Linzi is an eternal optimist, and one of the most cheerful companions. Even though the main character in her story might potentially act villainous at times, she maintains a good attitude. She might complain about how difficult it is to find a positive adjective for them, though.













Mammoth Lords, the motherland of belligerent barbarians and enormous beasts. Amiri is straightforward, sometimes to the point of being rude. She hates idle talk and prefers to resolve disputes with a fight. The warrior can join the main character from the start as the team's frontline fighter. Her ability to enter a rage and deal massive damage with a single blow makes her a perfect candidate for the role. Pathfinder fans know this character well enough from numerous pictures made for the tabletop roleplaying game, so it was essential to retain Amiri's features, including her signature weapon—a huge sword that previously belonged to a frost giant.







Amiri









Jaethal-sketch

Path-finder: Kingmaker



In Inquisitor of Urgathoa, the goddess of physical excess and the undead, Jaethal joins the player for her own reasons rather than any desire to bring peace and order to the Stolen Lands. There is far more to this elf than meets the eye, however. After her death, Jaethal returned to "life" as an undead by the grace of her goddess. Jaethal was introduced into the game as a companion for those who prefer not just noble knights at their side, but also down-to-earth, sometimes even selfish companions. Jaethal is pictured with a disdainful sneer — her usual grimace when regarding mortals. She wields an intimidating scythe, the favored weapon of Urgathoa.



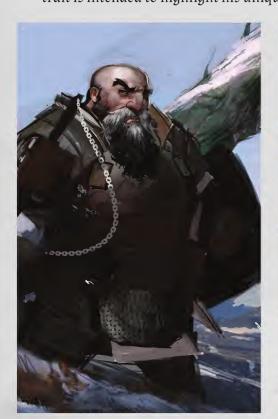








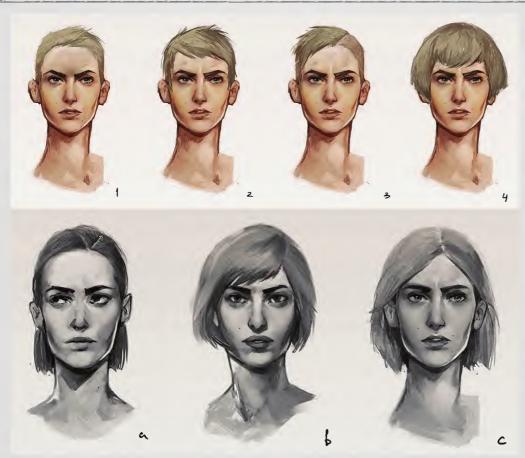
ost wouldn't dare devote their lives to the God of the End Times, but there is no other path for Harrim, priest of Groetus. The dwarf has long forsaken the vanities of the world. He is anticipating the last hour, the moment when his god will show his true power and take over. Without a clan or a home, Harrim retreated into his obscure religion. He may irritate other group members with his melancholic remarks, but he is outstanding in battle. Regardless of his creed, the priest never fails to magically heal his allies and save them from dying, though he is certain to utter a heavy sigh and comment on the certainty of death. Dark armor, a bleak landscape, a grim visage — everything in his portrait is intended to highlight his unique nature.

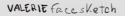


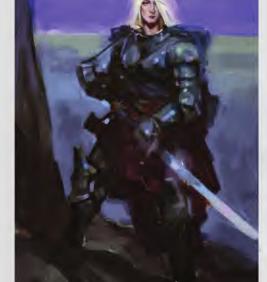












## \*\*ALERIE

Ign, the goddess of love and beauty. However, Valerie had her own ideas about her destiny. She denied Shelyn's teachings, cut her gorgeous locks, and exchanged her luxurious attire for utilitarian armor. She joined a group of military mercenaries. Valerie's charming exterior conceals an iron will and a strict adherence to principles — the traits that allowed the beauty to become a perfect warrior and a loyal companion. Valerie will follow her leader to Hell and beyond if she finds their goals worthy. The player has the chance to become such a leader. It took us a while to find her image, but the portrait we found after a long process of trial and error perfectly reflects her natural beauty alongside her pragmatic military character.











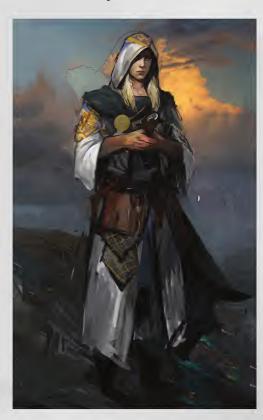
### **PRISTIAN**

Angel sketch

The player meets Tristian soon after their arrival in the Stolen Lands. This kind and sympathetic priest of Sarenrae, the goddess of compassion, turns out to be much stronger than he might seem at first sight. According to Tristian, he arrived in the Stolen Lands on a difficult mission to discover why curses in the region acquire a special power. One of the merciful goddess's faithful, he gets along with any companion... almost. Only a hardened villain can exhaust his patience and compassion. His white-and-gold clothes along with the holy symbol in his hands are the visible signs that he worships Sarenrae.











Ctavia and her partner Regongar join the player during the search for a captured companion. All her life, the half-elf was a slave. Once liberated, she joins the main character to do good and help protect the weak together. Octavia is one of the most popular and lovable companions in the game. Her true kindness and love for freedom stood out from the other grittier characters. Her portrait reflects not just her friendliness and magical skills, but also her love of jewelry — a peculiar detail that reveals the past of a girl who never had the chance to do her hair in the morning, or wear rings and bracelets.

















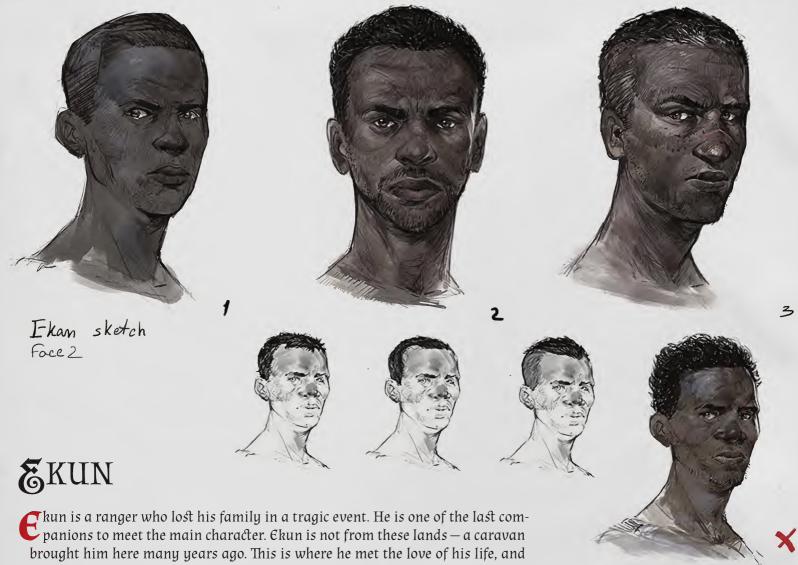
# REGONGAR

The half-orc that joins the main character's party along with Octavia is her complete opposite. He's hasty in his judgments and deeds, sharp, and very cruel. Years of slavery might have turned him into a monster if it weren't for Octavia, who can soothe his anger under any circumstances. Regongar is a magus who relishes melee combat while still being able to defeat his foes at a distance with deadly spells. His favorite element is electricity, as deadly and full of surprises as Regongar himself. Octavia and Regongar's portraits resonate, indicating that there is a special bond between them.

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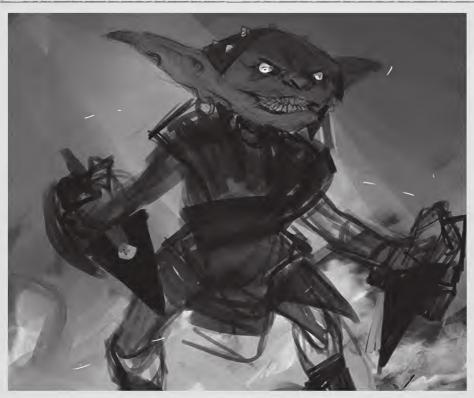
panions to meet the main character. Ekun is not from these lands — a caravan brought him here many years ago. This is where he met the love of his life, and he remained in the Stolen Lands forever. He dwells on his failure to protect his daughter and wife from trolls, who devastated their entire village. The only thing that prevents him from ending his own life is his desire for revenge against the monsters who took the lives of his family. Sullen and reserved in speech, Ekun will be a reliable companion and a loyal friend to whoever can help him back to his feet — and to his life.













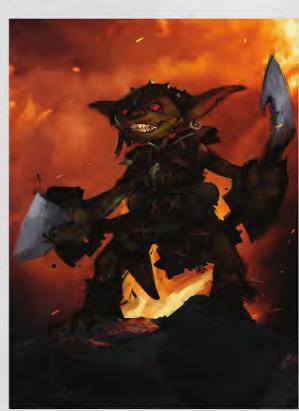
### MOK-MOK

Perhaps the most interesting, and certainly the most unusual, of all the companions, Nok-Nok was added as a stretch goal reward during our Kickstarter campaign. As different as he is from the other companions, he stands out from his kin even more — to the extent that they tried to sacrifice him. That was the reason Nok-Nok left his tribe and joined the player. A faithful follower of Lamashtu, the goddess of misshapen and malformed creatures, the goblin fights using two kukris — his goddess's favored weapon — and decorates his forehead with a third eye, the symbol of the divine grace of the Mother of Monsters. It is not known whether Lamashtu really treats Nok-Nok differently or if his privileged position is just a figment of his imagination.











# GAME GHARACTERS

Here from companions, the player meets many interesting characters in the Stolen Lands, both those conceived by Paizo authors for the original adventure path and some new ones created by writers at Owlcat Games.

#### SHANDRA MERVEY

Shandra Mervey is the ambassador of Natala Surtova, Jamandi Aldori's opponent in the political arena of Brevoy. If the player chooses to reject the swordlord's support and seek Surtova's help, Shandra will become their right hand in courtly matters. As reserved and reasonable as she is, Mervey has been a diplomat and an advisor all her life. Her portrait is an exact reflection of that—it is a noble lady who looks at you, not an adventurer.









The Swordlords value combat prowess above all else, and they readily accept promising students to their ranks regardless of race or descent. Kassil Aldori is living proof of that. As a child, Kassil lived on the streets until a fateful meeting with Jamandi Aldori—one of the most powerful people in all Brevoy. The swordlord took Kassil as her apprentice, and the half-orc lived up to her expectations. Now Jamandi Aldori is holding a competition to conquer the Stolen Lands, offering a luxurious prize—a baron's title and the right to establish their own state. Proud and honorable Kassil Aldori will gladly join the newfound barony as the swordlord's envoy should the player wish it.









## Kesten Garess

Resten Garess, one of the player's first associates, is the disowned descendant of one of Brevoy's noble houses. Loyal to the baron of the Stolen Lands, this gloomy and reserved warrior primarily looks after the interests of the common people. He is an honest and straightforward man who is used to combat, weapons, and armor more than formal events and luxurious attire.









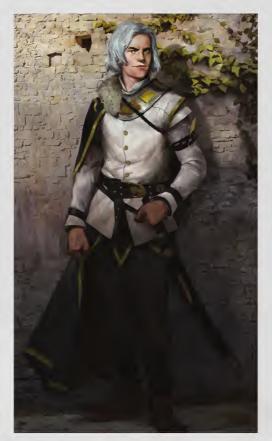




### PANDER PEBEDA

The heir of a noble house of Brevoy, Lebeda escaped the control of his aging mother and headed south to seek his fortune. The main character has a chance to meet Lander at their inauguration as the new baron of the Stolen Lands, and they can hire him as an advisor. Young, daring, and always using ends to justify his means, Lander is a character that Pathfinder's admirers know very well. Like Amiri, he was recreated using the official description and tabletop roleplaying game illustrations.









## **P**SANNA

er lovely face is deceptive. Vulgar speech and a simple manner conceal incredible artifice and cruelty beneath. Tsanna may look like an honest peasant, but in actuality she is a priestess of Lamashtu, a sadist with a perverted sense of beauty and justice. The only thing that may hint at her true nature is her crippled leg, covered in ulcers — a symbol of the grace of the Mother of Monsters.









# STAG YORD

The Stag Lord is the bandit chieftain of the Stolen Lands, and the ultimate opponent of the main character at the beginning of Pathfinder: Kingmaker. He is a madman who safeguards his territory with the vigor of a wild beast, inspiring terror not just in innocent peasants, but also in his own associates. The Stag Lord is the living manifestation of the chaotic nature of the Stolen Lands, and his image reflects this. His main distinguishing feature is his horrific antlered helmet, from which the character gets his name.





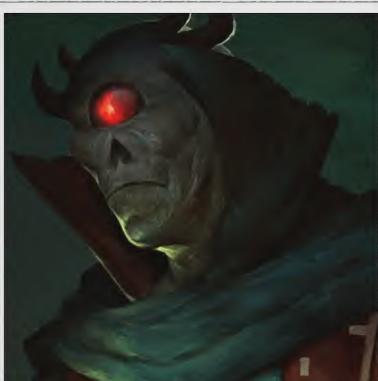
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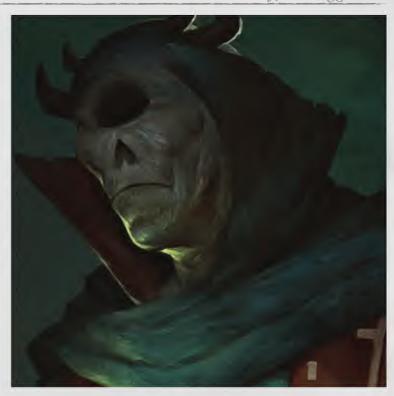
As soon as the player ascends their throne, they are confronted with a new challenge: kobolds and trolls within the new barony have decided to join forces and establish their own state. The kobold shaman Tartuk is one of the leaders of this mob. His history is much stranger and more obscure than typical of the people of his tribe. Regardless of his smaller size and subtle complexion, Tartuk was intended to inspire terror in his opponents, so he is depicted in dark colors, wearing a fearsome skull mask along with a strange ceremonial outfit decorated with an eerie sickle.







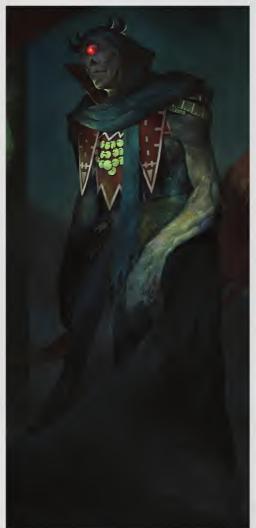




# **₩**ORDAKAI

reflection of the power of an ancient civilization long since turned to dust. Vordakai, a cyclops lich who was awakened by a clumsy tomb raider, has long been in the shadows, causing fear and performing evil acts even from a distance. When the player finally reaches his tomb, they meet the embodiment of an ancient horror. The tall, disproportionately built cyclops has signs of decomposition on his face and body, and he wears heavy ceremonial decorations and garments featuring geometric shapes, an element of the traditional cultural decorations of the cyclopes' empire.











# RAVEN

oragnamon is Vordakai's familiar. He follows the player everywhere after their arrival at the mysteriously deserted colony of Varnhold. He plays the role of a somber omen while at the same time being the emissary of a mystical power trying to impose its will over the characters in Pathfinder: Kingmaker. Horagnamon's entry becomes a turning point in the story of the disappearances at Varnhold. The player realizes someone powerful is watching them and begins looking for the raven's master.









# RMAG THE WWICE-BORN

I rmag is a legendary chieftain of the Kellid barbarians, and he was the chosen of Gorum, the god of war himself. According to legend, the leader was destined to rise again after his demise and lead the tribes of wild Numeria once more into battle. Judging by the Kellid armies at Brevoy's border, that day has finally come. Armag the Twice-Born is not as straightforward as he may seem, though. The second part of the game reveals more about this character. Otherwise, Armag is a typical representative of his nation — he is a mighty warrior in barbarian armor, wielding a massive blade that takes immense strength to master.





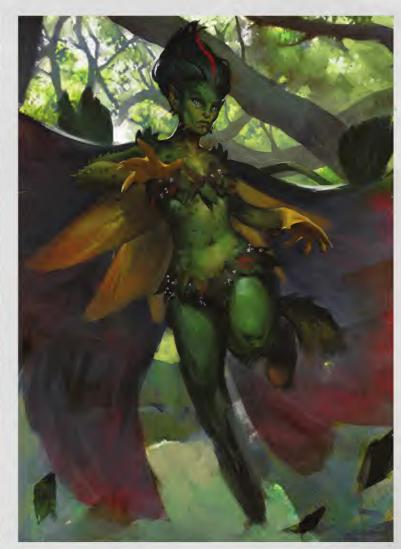




#### YRISSA

The player first encounters Nyrissa as a helpless nymph. She needs someone to save her, and she maintains this image until the moment she is sure she can deal a mortal blow to the conqueror of the Stolen Lands. Treacherous and murderous, Nyrissa is the main villain of Pathfinder: Kingmaker. She manipulates mortals as though arranging pieces on a chessboard. The tabletop version of Pathfinder had an elaborate picture of her, but we developed it even further. She appears as a bright, catchy adversary — the embodiment of wild nature in all its compelling beauty and unbridled fury.







# **GLASSES**

A character's class represtents both their mission and their craft. It defines their main characteristics, skills, and unique abilities — sometimes even their lifestyle. Pathfinder: Kingmaker has all the basic classes of the tabletop roleplaying game, as well as a few very popular extra classes. Each of them required a distinct design to reflect their distinguishing class features.

# **A**LCHEMIST

rough protective suit of thick leather, plenty of belt bags, and many bottles containing strange substances — these are the main features of alchemists.







# BARBARIAN























Skilled warriors who prefer weapons and melee combat to magic and tricks of any kind. Their clothes are designed to be worn with thick layers of armor.

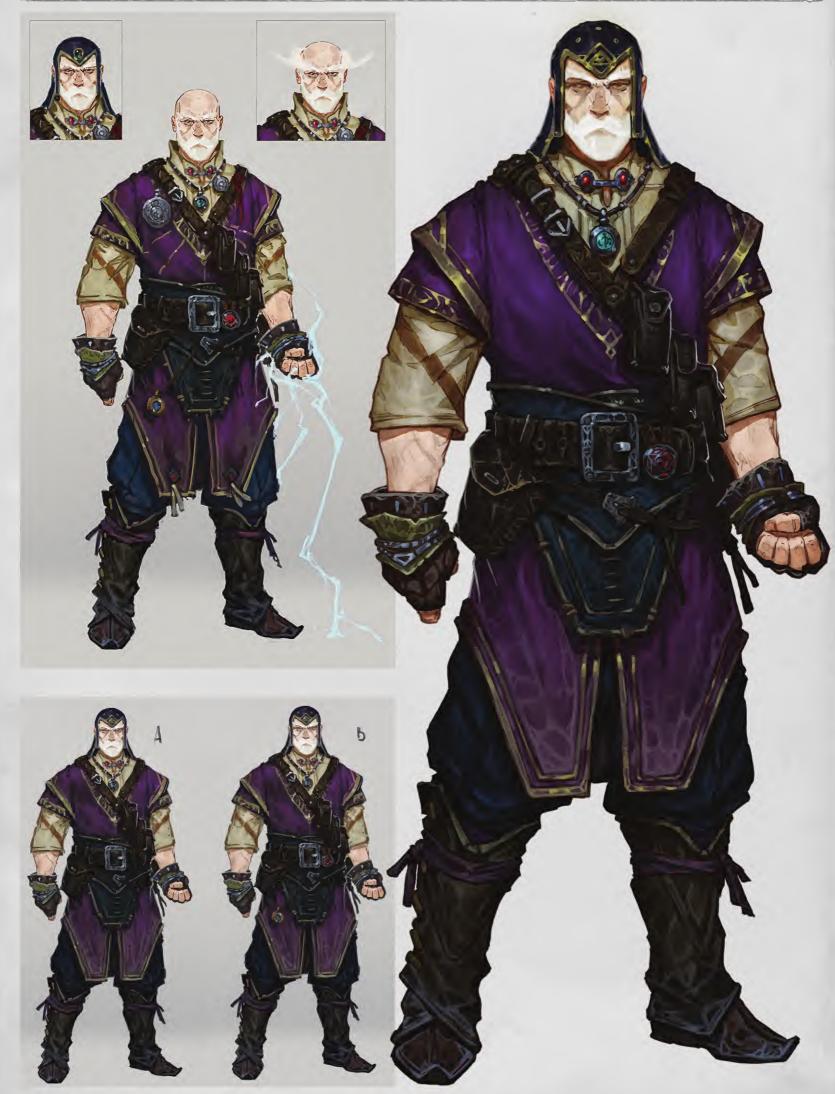






izards use their spellbooks, containing dozens or even hundreds of spells, to prepare the specific selection of spells they intend to cast each day.

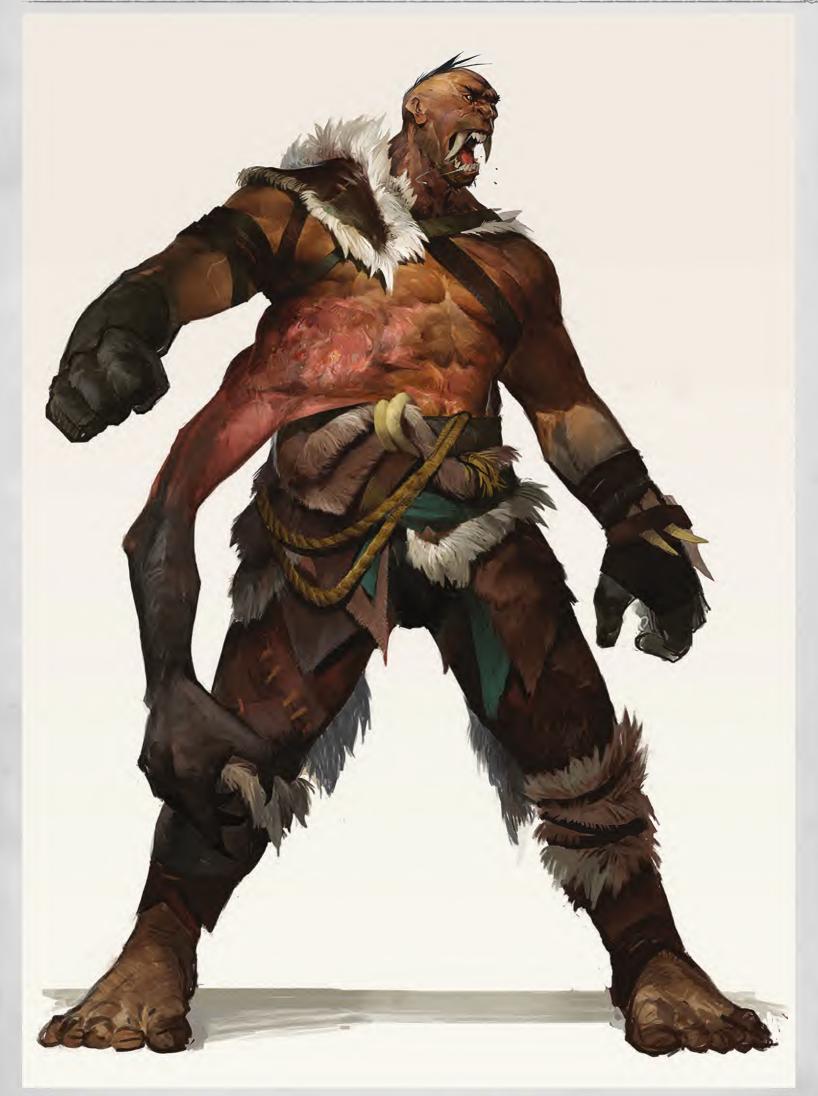




## MONSTERS

The Stolen Lands are full of dangerous foes, from tiny fairies to enormous giants. Many of them, such as nixies and dryads, are native inhabitants of these lands. Others were summoned forcibly, such as elementals or the undead. Most creatures in this section were inspired by illustrations from the original tabletop version of Pathfinder.





















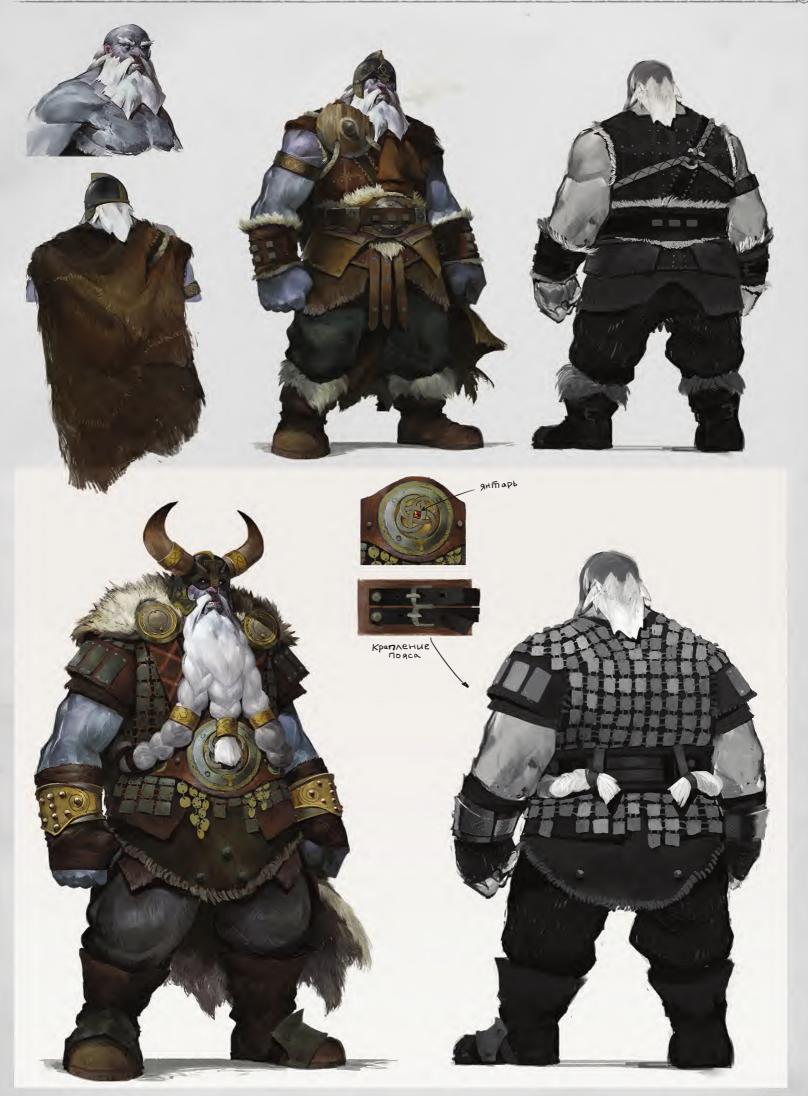
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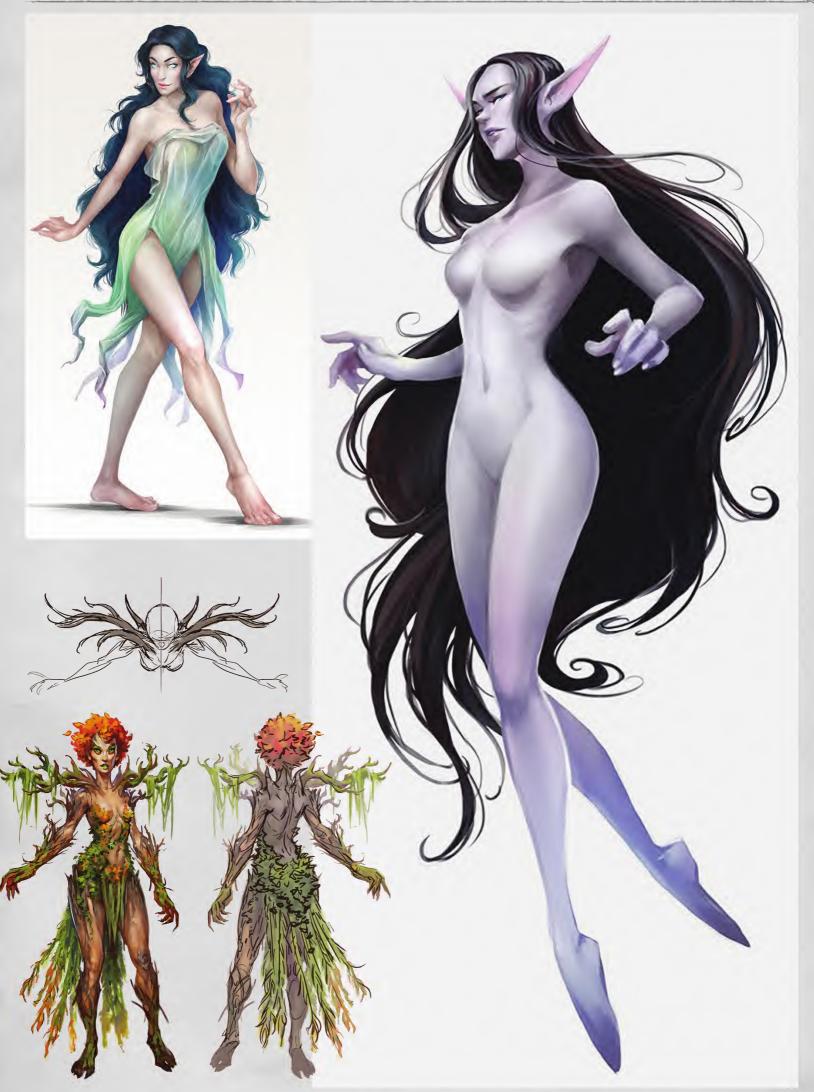


























## WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT

A

II Pathfinder: Kingmaker classes require specific equipment. This section showcases weapons, armor, and other items.



## RMOR

































# BOOKS



























## **G**LOAKS



# NPC ATTIRE





### **W**EHPONS















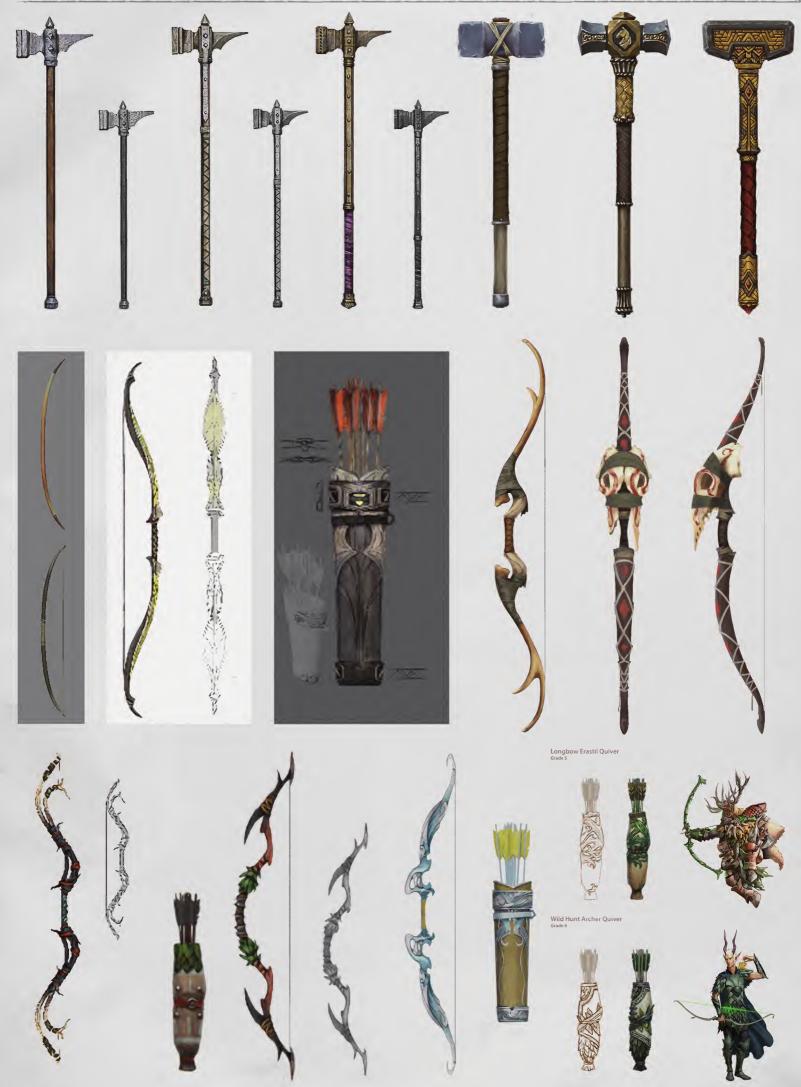






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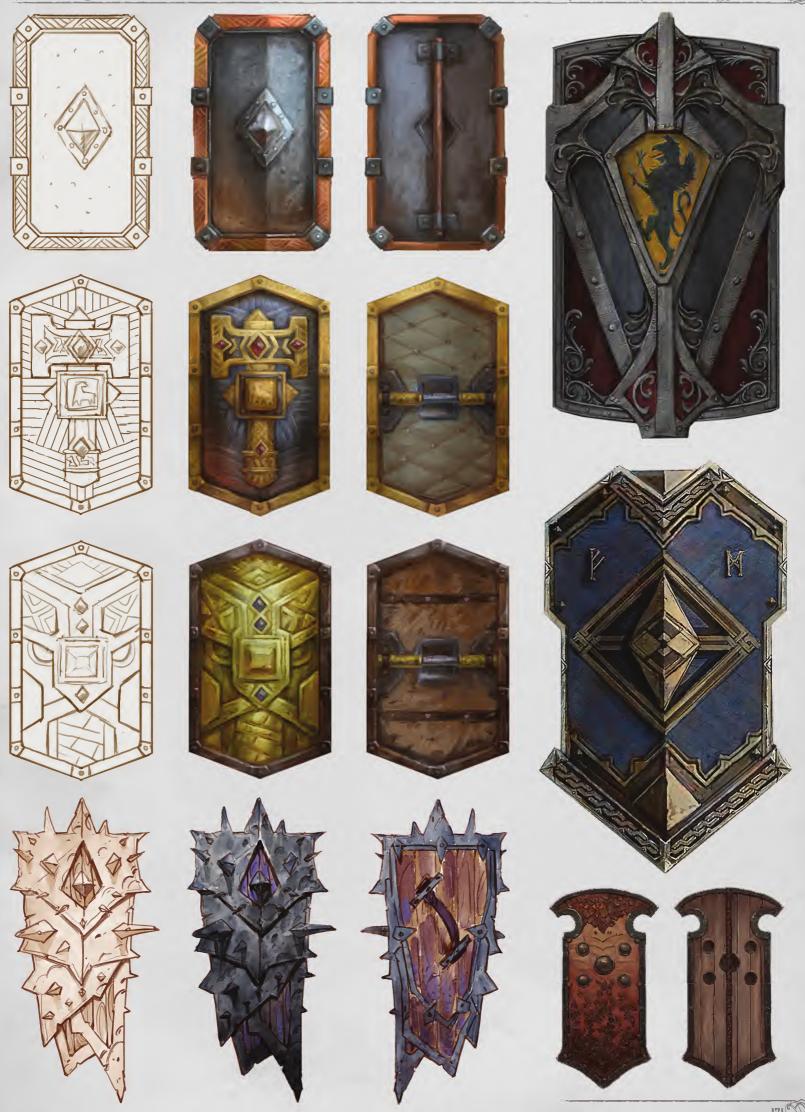












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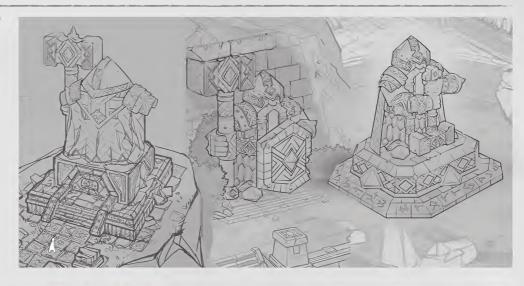
# ENVIRONMENT

he Stolen Lands are a part of the River Kingdoms, a harsh and beautiful region. This section contains sketches of buildings, location maps, and drafts of environmental elements in the game.



#### **S**ETTING

Pathfinder: Kingmaker player will find themselves in dwarven ruins many times. The key features of these places are simple shapes and substantial masonry that remains intact to this day.







Barbarians are a nomadic people. Carts, simple defensive structures, and foldable tents and canopies are typical in their temporary camps.



G oblins can hardly be called skilled builders — their homes looks scary, and they seem to be made up of random junk with a nasty smell.

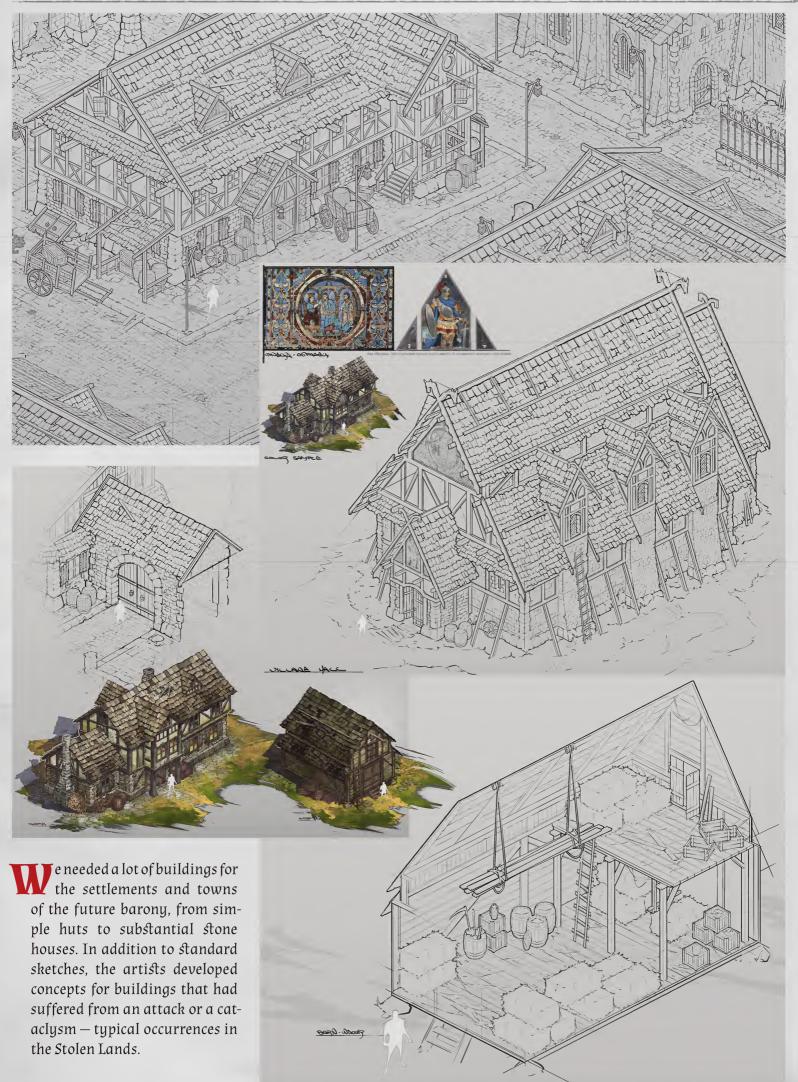






Tizardfolk Settlement.

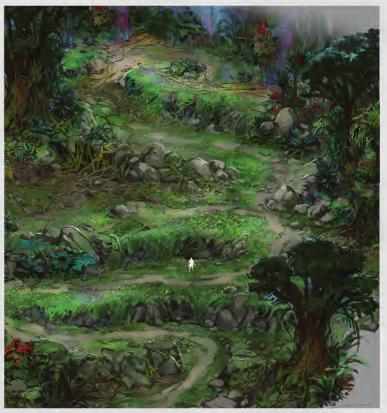




### THE FIRST WORLD

The abundance of plants, strange flowers, and creeping vines everywhere — these are the telltale signs that the player has entered the First World.







#### GYCLOPES RUINS



BANDIT GAMP BY THE PHORN FORD



# WOODEN FORT





# **S**TORY



## THE STOLEN LANDS AND NEIGHBORING REAS

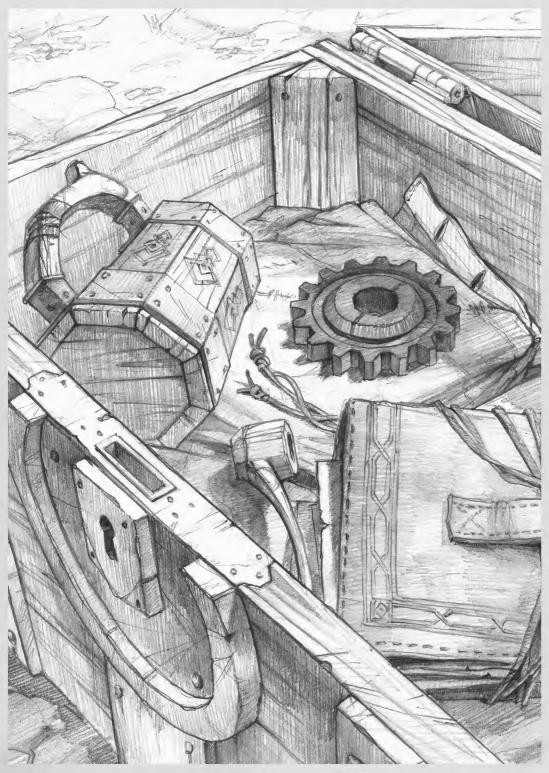


This map of the Stolen Lands also includes the neighboring state of Pitax, as well as the Dunsward region with the neighboring barony of Varnhold. Nevertheless, this shows just a small piece of Avistan, the large continent on which the events of the tabletop roleplaying game Pathfinder unfold.





### \$LLUSTRATIONS















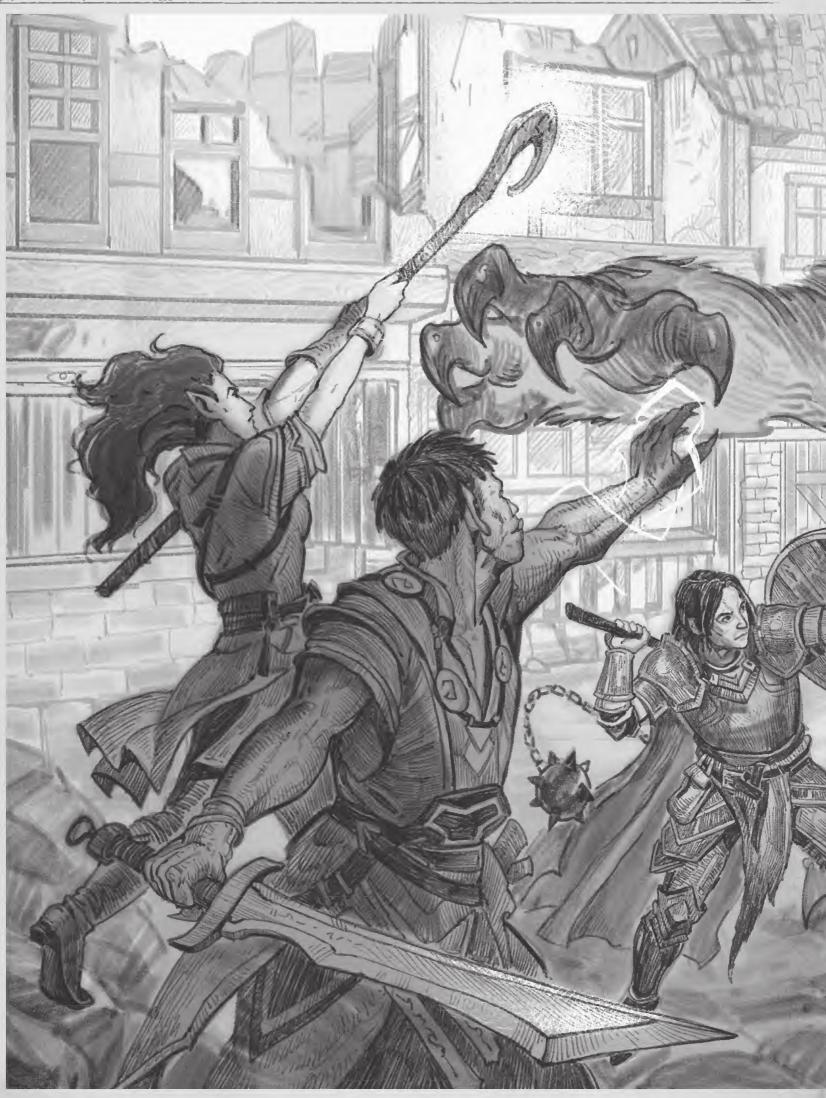












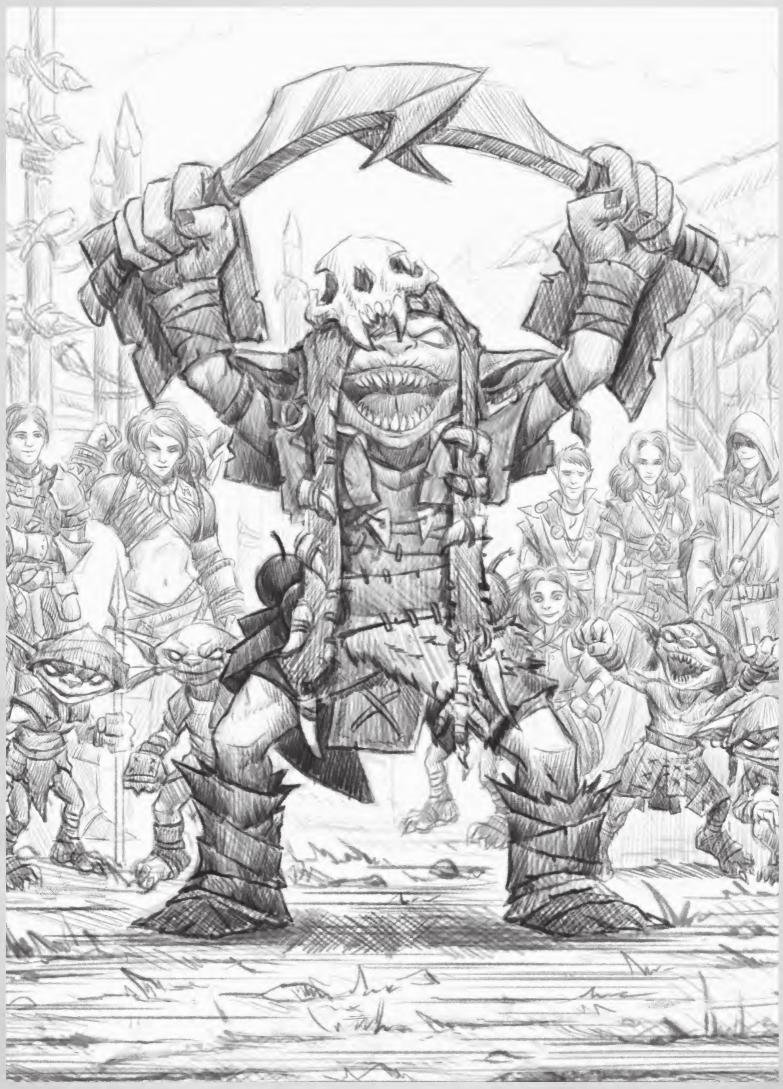






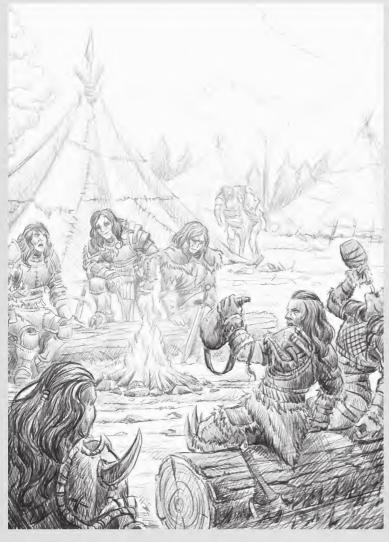






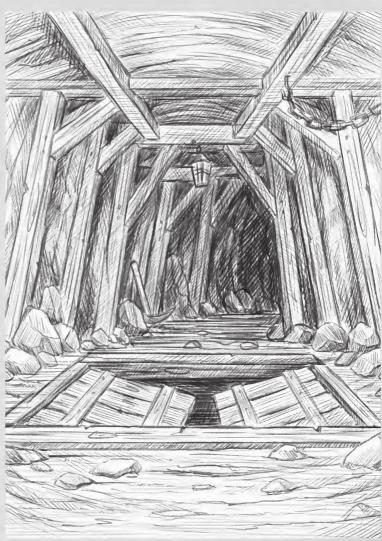


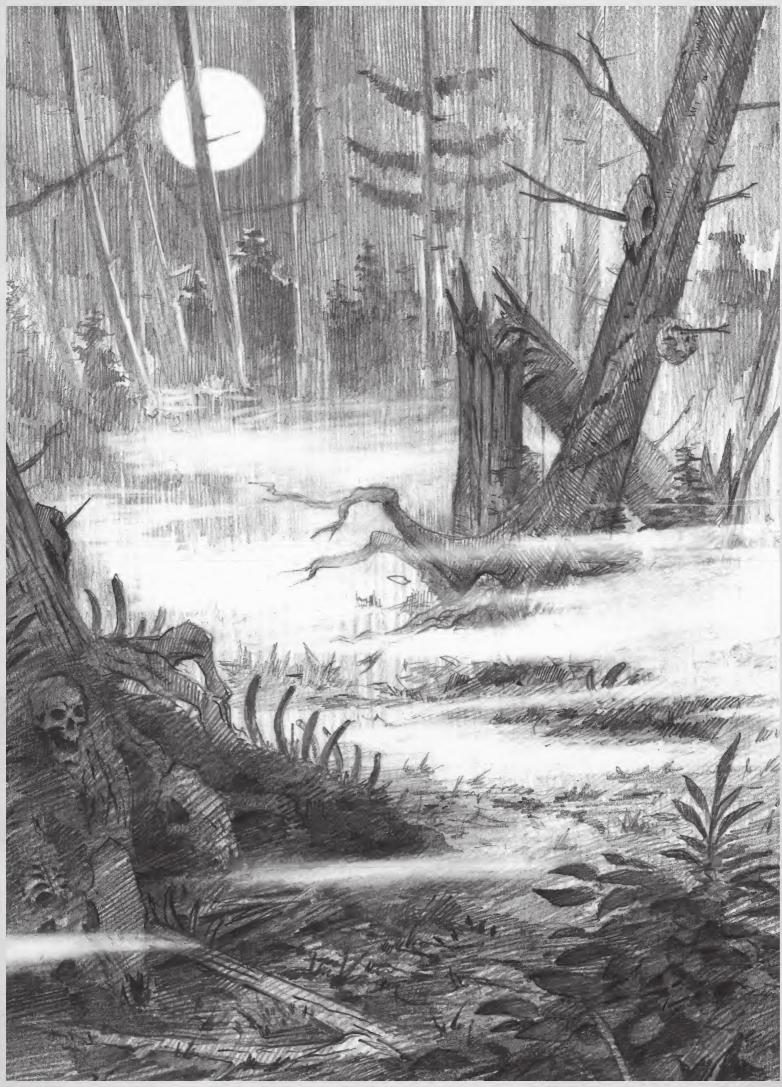




















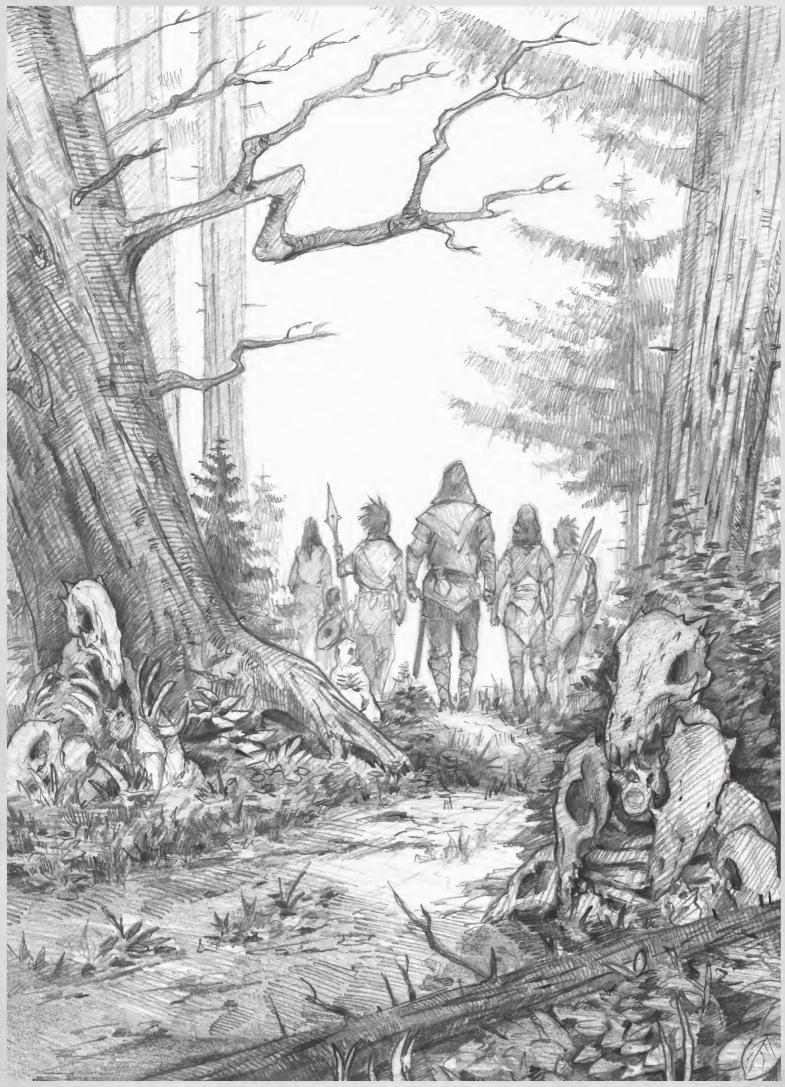












# \$NTERFACE









# MARKETING





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## DEFENSE OF THE GAPITAL GITY



**A**rt by Anton Lavrushkin



## ASSAULT ON THE STAG YORD'S FORT

**A**rt by Akim Kaliberda

















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